

I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A molding system flexible shoe assembly ~~for use in a molding system~~ comprising:

- a body for supporting a load; and
- a force redirector;

said body having (i) an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a linearly moving complimentary surface of a supported member, and (ii) a lower mounting surface configured to engage a complementary surface within said molding system and providing positioning and adjustment of said shoe assembly during installation,

said force redirector being disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface and configured to redirect said force from a ~~peripheral~~ leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central ~~force~~ area in said body,

said force redirector being disposed substantially perpendicular to the linear movement of said body.

2. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 1 further comprising,

a load distributor disposed in a place above said force redirector, said load distributor distributing a load across said upper surface and maintaining said upper surface relatively flat under loading.

3. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 2 wherein, said load distributor is formed on said upper surface.

4. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 2 further comprising,

a wear pad; and

a wear pad retainer formed in said upper surface;

said wear pad mounted by said wear pad retainer on said upper surface wherein said load distributor is formed on a lower surface of said wear pad.

5. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 3, wherein said load distributor is a series of stepped notches.

6. (Withdrawn) A shoe as in claim 3, wherein said load distributor is a contoured recess.

7. (Original) A shoe as in claim 1, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.

8. (Previously Presented) A shoe as in claim 7 wherein, said force redirector comprises a pair of slots in said body forming a web interconnecting an upper support member and a lower support member.

9. (Previously Presented) A shoe as in claim 7 wherein, said force redirector comprises a slot forming a web interconnecting an upper support member and a lower support member.

10. (Previously Presented) A shoe as in claim 8 further comprising:

a first flexation stop disposed in one of said pair of slots between said upper support member and said lower support member; and

a second flexation stop disposed in a second of said pair of slots between said upper support member and said lower support member, said first flexation stop and said second flexation stop limiting pivotal movement of said upper support.

11. (Original) A shoe as in claim 9 further comprising a flexation stop disposed in said slot between said upper support member and said lower support member, said flexation stop limiting pivotal movement of said upper support.

12. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A shoe as in claim 1, wherein said wear pad retainer comprises (i) a first edge lip formed at a first peripheral edge of said upper surface of said body, and (ii) a second edge lip formed at a second peripheral edge of said upper surface of said body, said first edge lip and said second edge lip engaging respective ends of said wear pad and releasably retaining said wear pad with said shoe.

Claims 13-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 1 wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

28. (Previously Presented) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 1 wherein said complementary surface of said lower mounting is configured to engage a surface of a bore in a platen within said molding system.

29. (Previously Presented) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 28 wherein said bottom surface is semi cylindrical.

30. (Previously Presented) A shoe as in claim 28, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.

31. (Previously Presented) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 28 wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

32. (Previously Presented) A shoe as in claim 29, wherein said force redirector provides pivotal movement of said upper surface.

33. (Previously Presented) A flexible shoe assembly as in claim 29, wherein said body includes at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.

34. (Currently Amended) A molding system
flexible shoe assembly ~~for use in a molding system~~
comprising:

a body for supporting a load; and

a force redirector;

said body having an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a complimentary surface of a supported member moving in a linear relationship with said body,

said force redirector comprising a pair of slots in said body forming a web having an integral bearing surface thereon,

said force redirector being disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface and configured to redirect said force from a ~~peripheral~~ leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central ~~force~~ area in said linearly moving body.

35. (Currently Amended) A molding system flexible shoe assembly ~~for use in a molding system~~ comprising:

a body for supporting a load; and

a force redirector;

said body having an upper wearing surface configured to slideably engage a linearly moving complimentary surface of a supported member,

said force redirector being disposed in said body in a plane below said upper surface and substantially parallel to the linear movement of said body,

said force redirector configured to redirect said force from a ~~peripheral~~ leading edge and a trailing edge of said upper surface to a central ~~force~~ area in said body, said body including at least one fixation bore extending lengthwise through a lower support of said body.